

THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition, at a first location, the at least one condition defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent by the first location to at least a second location, via the communication network;

receiving a request for media consumption, from a user at the first location;

sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the at least a second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is met; and

refraining from sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the at least a second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is not met.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first location and the at least a second location are associated with ~~at least one~~ or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and or an electronic serial number (ESN).

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and or a wireless infrastructure.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the at least a second location; and the identifier comprising ~~at least one~~ or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a title, a subject, a user

identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the first location, via the communication network.

11. (Currently amended) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition used to determine when a user is notified, via the communication network, of the receipt at a first location of an indication of media consumption activity[[,]] at at least a second location;

receiving, at the first location, at least one indication of media consumption activity, from at least the second location;

notifying the user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity, if the at least one condition is met; and

refraining from notifying the user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity, if the at least one condition is not met.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein each of the first location and the at least a second location are associated with ~~at least one~~ or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and or a wireless infrastructure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the media comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and or data.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein consumption comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and or displaying data.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the at least a second location; and the identifier comprising ~~at least one~~ or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and or an electronic serial number.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one condition comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and~~/or~~ an artist.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and~~/or~~ an artist.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of displaying an image, generating sound, and~~/or~~ illuminating a light emitting diode representing the receipt of the at least one activity indication.

21. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising: initiating, from the first location, an exchange of media between the first location and the at least a second location, if the at least one condition is met; and refraining from initiating, from the first location, an exchange of media between the first location and the at least a second location, if the at least one condition is not met.

22. (Currently amended) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

a television display, at a first location, to support the consumption of media by a user;
a storage, at the first location, communicatively coupled to the television display, and
having an associated first network address;
set top box circuitry, at the first location, the set top box circuitry communicatively
coupling the television display to the communication network;
at least one user defined identifier identifying at least a second location;
at least one user defined condition for notifying ~~[[a]]~~ the user; and
software that receives at least one indication of media consumption activity from the at
least a second location, via the communication network, and that responds by notifying the user
if the at least one user defined condition is met, and that refrains from notifying the user if the at
least one user defined condition is not met.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the media comprises
~~at least one~~ or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and~~/or~~ data.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein consumption comprises
~~at least one~~ or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and~~/or~~
displaying data.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the associated first and
second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control
(MAC) address, and or an electronic serial number (ESN).

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the communication network comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined identifier comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined condition comprises a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and an artist.

29. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises ~~at least one~~ or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

30. (New) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to a first location, via a communication network, if at least one condition received at a second location and defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent by the second location to at least the first location is met; and

refraining from sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the first location if the at least one condition received at the second location and defining when the indication of media consumption activity is sent by the second location to at least the first location is not met.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein each of the first location and the second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

32. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

33. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

34. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

35. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

36. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the first location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

37. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

38. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

39. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the second location, via the communication network.

40. (New) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry at a first location; and

software that receives at least one indication of media consumption activity from a second location, via a communication network, and that responds by notifying a user at the first location if at least one user defined condition for notifying the user at the first location is met, and that refrains from notifying the user at the first location if the at least one user defined condition for notifying the user at the first location is not met.

41. (New) The system of claim 40 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

42. (New) The system of claim 40 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

43. (New) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

44. (New) The system of claim 40 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.